

Outline

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about the story of the Yue Lao and the marriage concept of the ancient Chinese that Yue Lao represents.

Central Idea: The story of Yue Lao reflects the change of cognition attitude on love and marriage in ancient China.

Introduction:

- I. Everyone longs to have a girlfriend/boyfriend.
- II. Some want to be assigned one and the ancient people shared the same idea.
- III. The ancient Chinese depended on a god—Yue Lao to do such thing.

Body:

- I. The image of Yue Lao and what is he capable of.
 - A. The meaning of his name and how foreigners call him.
 - B. Things he carried and what are they used for.
 - 1. The “*Red thread of fate*” is used to tie around the ankles of those that are destined to fall in love with each other.
 - 2. A marriage book records all people’s match.

(**Transition:** So now you may be curious—what exactly can Yue Lao do? Here is an interesting and most famous story about Yue Lao.)

II. A story about Yue Lao’s amazing ability.

- 1. A man encountered Yue Lao knew about his destined wife but didn’t

satisfied with the arrangement.

2. He sent his servant to kill that baby girl but the servant failed.
3. Years later, he found that his new wife had a scar and asked her about it, the story matched what he had done.

III. The story shows that Yue Lao was originally created to make young people believe their marriage is settled and it's no use fighting it.

IV. As time's gone on, people in Tang dynasty consider Yue Lao as the symbol of chasing your own love.

Conclusion:

- I.** Yue Lao's meaning is changing as time's passing.
- II.** It reflects the change of people's attitude towards marriage.
- III.** Wish all people can find and marry their lover.

Speech Script

The Symbol of Marriage in Antient China—Yue Lao

Okay, since we are all adults now, there is one thing that we are all long to have and now we are no longer afraid to talk about it—relationship. We are so eager to have a sweet relationship with someone else that we can't help asking: "Can government assign me a boyfriend or girlfriend? I can't stand being alone anymore!" Well, today I'm going to tell you that not only you can't stand it, the ancient Chinese shared the same thought with you, only that they wanted a god to do such thing.

This god they turned to was named as "*Yue Lao*", which means the old

man under the moon, and the foreigner called him “*the old lunar matchmaker god*”. He is in charge of marriages. It is said that he pulls red thread in one hand, carries a stick which hanging a marriage book in the other hand. Attention please! That red thread is not any ordinary thread, it is called “*Red thread of fate*”, Yue Lao ties this invisible red thread around the ankles of those that are destined to meet one another in a certain situation or help each other in a certain way. The two people connected by the red thread are destined lovers, regardless of place, time, or circumstances. This magical thread may stretch or tangle, but never break. It’s amazing, isn’t it? Turns out we don’t have to do anything to win a girlfriend or boyfriend, it is all set, all we should do is wait.

So now you may be curious—what exactly can Yue Lao do? Here is an interesting and most famous story about Yue Lao. Once there was a young man who was on his way to a date, during which he saw an old man—needless to say he is Yue Lao—standing beneath the moonlight. The old man was holding a book that the young man couldn’t understand a word. He was confused and asked the old man why. The old man laughed and told him it’s a book recording the marriages of all people. The young man insisted on asking him about who will he marry, thinking that he’ll net himself a rich girl. Yue Lao said the girl he was dating was not the one and pointed at a poor-looking little girl who's taking a stroll with an old blind woman in a marketplace, showed him a red thread between the two, and told the man that he’ll marry her someday. Displeased, the man told a servant to kill the two and then left the village. Years later the man,

now a promising public officer, married a beautiful woman from a rich family who was very much the perfect wife for him save for two details: she had a limp and covered her forehead with a silk patch for undisclosed reasons. He asked his wife why and she began crying, telling him that she was the niece of the family leaders rather than their daughter: her parents died when she was young and she initially lived with her old blind nanny, but one day a madman stabbed her caretaker to death in a local marketplace and wounded her, leaving her scarred and almost crippled. The man realized that Yue Lao was right, tearfully confesses that he ordered the attack and asked his wife for forgiveness, which she gave to him.

You see, people created Yue Lao to make us believe that our life is settled and it's no use fighting it. That poor girl could only marry a man who tried to kill her simply because an old man's words and her poor situation, just because some god that came from nowhere tied an invisible red thread around their ankles. It's ridiculous, don't you think? From this point of view, we can tell that Yue Lao was originally created to make young people followed to their parent's arrangement of marriage.

Luckily, the concept can be explained and used in another way. Young lovers can also claim that they are the perfect match in Yue Lao's marriage book. As a matter of fact, god knows what is wrote on that book. Thus, as time's gone on, people in Tang dynasty consider Yue Lao as the symbol of chasing your own love.

So, this is a god in traditional Chinese culture, created to resemble arranged marriage, but eventually evolved into a symbol of free love. Yue Lao vividly shows the change of people's attitude towards marriage. And now, in the name of Yue Lao, I sincerely give you my best wishes that all of you can find and marry your lover.

That is all I want to say, thank you for your listening.

Bibliography:

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